Appln. No.: 10/005,241 Amendment dated December 24, 2003 Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2003

## Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 20, page 5, with the following amended paragraph:

--As used herein, "fibrous monolithic composite" and "fibrous monolith" are intended to mean a ceramic composite material that includes a plurality of monolithic fibers, or filaments, each having at least a cell phase surrounded by a boundary phase but may include more than one core and/or shall-shell phase. Fibrous monoliths exhibit the characteristic of non-brittle fracture, such that they provide for non-catastrophic failure.--